

REMARKS

In view of the preceding amendments and the comments which follow, and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, amendment and reconsideration of the Office Action dated February 22, 2006, is respectfully requested by Applicant.

Summary

Claims 11 – 26 stand rejected.

Claim 11 has been amended. No new matter has been added as a result of this amendment.

Rejection of Claims

35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 11, 17-18 and 20 - 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gunjima (U.S. Patent No. 5,587,816).

In regards to the rejection of Claims 11, 17 – 18 and 20 – 24 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 102(b), Claim 11 recites, *inter alia*, the light diffusion layer is disposed directly in contact with a surface of the second polarizing plate. Applicants submit that none of the references, alone or in combination, anticipate or suggest such an arrangement.

Gunjima fails to teach or suggest the arrangement of Claim 11. Gunjima fails to disclose anywhere that the light-diffusion layer (8) is disposed in contact with a surface of the second polarizing plate (9). Gunjima teaches that the light-diffusion layer (8) is disposed in contact with the prism array (7), but fails to mention the light-diffusion layer (8) disposed in contact with a surface of the polarizing plate (9) (Fig. 2; col. 17, lines 28 – 35). Gunjima fails to disclose that the light-diffusion layer (8) is in contact with the second polarizing plate (9). In fact, Figures 1 and 2 of Gunjima illustrate a gap between the polarizing plate (9) and a light-diffusion layer (8), which is contrary to the arrangement of Claim 1 where the light diffusion layer is in contact with a surface of second polarizing plate.

Gunjima is thus at best ambiguous as to the light-diffusion layer being disposed in contact with the second polarizing plate because Gunjima fails to disclose the arrangement of Claim 11 and illustrates a contrary arrangement in

the figures. It is well settled that an anticipation rejection cannot be predicated on an ambiguous reference (In re Turlay, 304 F.2d 893, 899, 134 USPQ 355, 360(CCPA 1962)). For at least this reason Claim 11 is allowable over the cited art.

Dependent Claims 12 - 26 are dependent upon an allowable claim. Thus, the dependent claims are allowable, without more.

Accordingly, Claim 11, as well as dependent Claims 12 – 26, is allowable over the cited art.

35 U.S.C. 103 (a)

Claims 12 - 16 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gunjima in view of Jiang (U.S. Patent 6,573,961). Neither Gunjima nor Jiang, alone or in combination, teach the limitation of Claim 11 where the light diffusion layer is disposed directly in contact with a surface of the second polarizing plate. Accordingly, Claim 11 is allowable over the cited art.

Dependent Claims 12 – 16 and 25 are dependent upon an allowable claim. Thus, Claims 12 – 16 and 25 are allowable, without more.

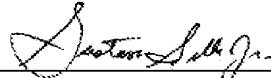
Claims 19 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gunjima in view of Jiang and in further view of Uchiyama (U.S. Patent 6,177,153). Uchiyama also fails to disclose the arrangement of Claim 11 where the light diffusion layer is disposed directly in contact with a surface of the second polarizing plate. Accordingly, Claim 11 is allowable over the cited art.

Dependent Claims 19 and 26 are dependent upon an allowable claim. Thus, Claims 19 and 26 are allowable, without more.

Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and seek an allowance thereof. If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application in the next Office Action and believes that a telephone interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney or agent.

Respectfully submitted,



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